ISASC

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

Chairman's Newsletter

Number 20. October, 1983.

WHAT'S NEW? JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING.

So much is happening with ISASC these days, it's difficult to know where to begin. Membership status is usually the first item to report on, so we'll continue the practice and report--with pleasure--an all-time membership high of 271. Supplement #2 for your membership directory is enclosed, and again illustrates the diverse and far-flung nature of our membership. (Consider, for example, the welcome addition of Mike Stensrud, a professional football player with the Houston Oilers.)

"CHICAGO, YOUR KIND OF TOWN..."

and the site for the 1984 ISASC Convention. Plans for our annual conclave are well-formulated, and the time is now to make <u>your</u> plans. Here's where we stand: Your hosts are Tod Carley, Bob Miller, and Bob Stein, along with special guest hosts from England, Michael and Diana Crawforth. The dates are Friday, May 18, to Sunday, May 20. The headquarters hotel is the world-famed Palmer House. And the program is shaping up as follows: Friday get-acquainted evening (probably 'til midnight), consisting of scale talk, shop and swap, you-look-at-my-pictures-and-I'll-look-at-yours, etc.; Saturday morning, a visit to see the Stein collection or combined Carley/Miller collections (take your pick); Saturday lunch (informal) at Chicago's renowned Blackhawk Restaurant; Saturday afternoon seminar, featuring metrology talks; Saturday

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night gala reception and dinner, followed by (you guessed it) scale talk 'til whatever late hour diehard collectors feel up to.

Sunday morning offers a special treat: a scales and weights auction, conducted by member Joel Malter (a consummate professional who conducted auctions at our San Francisco and New York conventions). The auction will feature one and possibly two extensive scale collections, to which will be added scales and weights provided by others. The offering promises to be a rich one, and a catalog describing it in its entirety will be mailed to all members well before the convention weekend.

IMPORTANT. If you have any scales or weights you'd like included in the auction (scales, small- to moderately-sized only; weights, scale and coin only, 1900 and prior), contact Joel Malter directly and he'll explain the auction terms and shipping arrangements. Malter's address is Box 777, Encino, California 91316, phone 213/784-7772.

SPECIAL NOTE. Those of our members who are dealers are invited to bring scales and weights and "set up shop" during the weekend.

IMPORTANT. All the salient information regarding the convention -- registration fees, deposit requirements, special rate for extended visits, etc. -- is in the enclosed program/information sheet. It should answer any and all questions, but if not, write us and we'll tell you whatever you'd like to know.

Enclosed are brochures describing Chicago and the Palmer House. From all indications, it appears that the Chicago convention will set a new attendance record, and we urge you to make your reservations now. And while you're at it, mark your calendar to update your photo album and bring it with you, along with any special scales and weights you'd like to trade, learn more about, or just show off.

INAUGURAL MAILING BY SEA.

As we advised our members in the last Newsletter, this mailing of EQM and assorted enclosures is being sent via seamail to overseas members to effectuate a much-needed economy. It will leave Chicago on or about October 31, and we anticipate its delivery in about six weeks, on or about December 15. However, except for the time lag with this mailing, we'd like to remind overseas members that the delivery interval for future mailings via seamail should be a stable three-month one. Please let us know if you receive this mailing any appreciable number of days beyond December 15.

And just so you know what the savings in overseas postage means to our exchequer, an 8 to 10 oz. mailing sent airmail is $3.06, whereas the same weight mailing sent seamail is only $1.14. Multiply the savings by about 93 overseas members and we've saved $178 per mailing or more than $700 per year.

AND WHILE ON THE SUBJECT....

of money, that is, it seemed logical that we should include our 1984 dues billing in this mailing, rather than incur the expense of a separate mailing later on, and that's what we've done.

As you'll note, dues for this coming year is $35 for all members, in accordance with the action taken by your officers at the Sindelfingen convention. Please, we urge you to pay your dues promptly. These days, with 271 members, administration of your Society requires an immense amount of time on the part of your officers, and we need to be spared the work (and grief) necessitated by delinquencies; i.e., second notices, exclusion from the directory, suspension of EQM mailings, etc. Your cooperation in respect to prompt payment is vitally needed, and we can't be too emphatic on the subject.

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IF YOU "DUES" YOUR PART...

we'll do ours and give you a way to handily update your listing in the upcoming 1984 Membership Directory. Enclosed is an index card designed for just that purpose. Use it as instructed, return it with your dues payment, and we'll do the rest. (Can you tell by now that we're trying to get dues paid promptly?)

"TWO-FOR-ONE" CATALOG OFFER A WINNER.

It appears our members know a bargain when they see one, as more than 50 hastened to express their desire to buy the combination offering of two Fairbanks catalogs, circa 1859 and 1906. For those who didn't pay attention the first time around, the 1859 catalog (very rare) runs 46 pages in length, and the 1906 catalog is 286 pages long. Each covers a variety of scales and each includes prices and a profusion of illustrations. The two-in-one price is $32, postage included (overseas airmail, $6.00 extra), and remittance is to be sent with the enclosed order card.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PREVIOUS RESPONDENTS: Please understand that the reply card you originally sent us was considered only a tentative order. To place a firm order, you must send us the enclosed order card with your remittance.

The offer, of course, is still extended to those members who did not indicate an initial interest. Tod Carley, our resident publisher, has decided to print a substantial quantity, so there should be enough to go around. However, according to our current policy, we will not print and maintain a large inventory, so to be on the safe side, it's best you order immediately.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

It's quite evident by now that one of ISASC's most important member services is its library of publications-- in- and out-of-print books, old and rare catalogs, historical documents and posters, etc., to say nothing of EQM itself, which has taken its rightful place as the current definitive publication on metrology.

All this being true and evident, a continuation of valuable publications is in store for 1984, including what is likely to become ISASC's single most valuable publication -- namely, the Handbook of Old Weighing Instruments by Michael Crawforth. The manuscript is already completed, and we'll tell you more about it in January. In addition, a new Crawforth booklet (first of a series) titled, Sovereign Balances 1. Standard Rockers, will be offered, having already been printed and due to be delivered to us shortly. Look for a detailed description and order card in early 1984.

Beyond these two publications, the long awaited EQM Index, covering the first five years of our quarterly magazine, is in the works. Compilation (a massive job) has been done by Diana Crawforth, and now we're in the thick of converting--by word-processor--the 93 pages of hand-printed text into reproduction form. Then, once it's proof-read (ugh!), printed and bound, we'll be mailing it to members early next year (happy day!).
As you can see, 1984 should be a bountiful time for scale afficianados looking to expand their knowledge by means of their library.

MISCELLANY.

** Al Eaches (our first treasurer and now director emeritus and honorary lifetime member), has provided Michael Crawforth with an article from the Howe Scale Co. describing its history. According to Michael, it's quite interesting and well worth inclusion in EQM, but only if it can be illustrated. So, Michael has asked that we extend a plea to any members who possess Howe scales (late 19th-early 20th century) to lend him whatever Howe photos they might have (or be willing to take). Black and white pictures are preferred, color is acceptable, and whatever is provided should be sent directly to Michael. To those who are able to help, merci beau coup.

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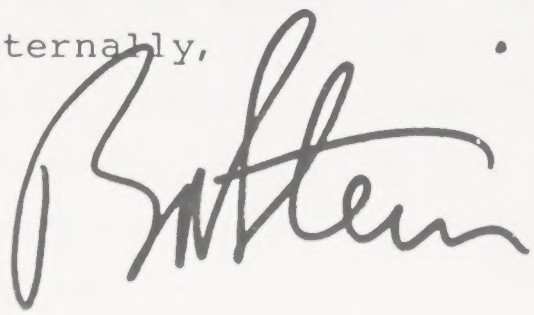
** Member Lewis Weiss writes us to advise any members who are planning to visit the famed Streeter Collection at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, to make arrangements in advance to see the full collection, as presently only a few scales and weights are on display, with most being stored. An associate membership in ISASC is held by the collection, and the likely contact is Ms. Ellen Zak Danforth, the collection cataloger. See the Streeter listing in your directory for the address and phone number.

** On the fiscal front, ISASC appears to be sturdily solvent. Enclosed is our customary mid-year financial report, and following a practice started last year, an income/expense projection for the coming year. As you can see, all looks well, which should give all of us a good feeling about the future.

YEAR-END ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS...

for services rendered have to do with some most unusual people whose talents and dedication contribute mightily to the stature and well-being our society enjoys. Accolades deservedly go to Michael Crawforth, whose diverse skills are of incalculable value to ISASC; Tod Carley, whose craftsmanship and zeal provide us with a superb publications library; Bob Miller, whose faculty for diligent record-keeping keeps our financial affairs in order; Gerard Houben, our new Euro-treasurer, who unfailingly renders assistance whenever it's needed; and Utz Schmidt, who so masterfully conducted our 1983 convention in Sindelfingen, Germany. To these stalwarts in particular, my heartfelt thanks for a job well done, and to our members at large, an equal measure of thanks for your support and encouragement.

Happy New Year!

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